

BY LA MARQUISE DE FONSECOY.

THE MARQUIS SALVAGO-RAGGI, a low and thin, balding man, holds the most highly paid home office of any in the gift of the Italian government, and manages the affairs of Italy's extensive possessions in Africa. He could have had a first-class embassy in Europe for the same salary, but he has no possession of some private fortune in addition to salary, and the Marquis is not well off. He came quite prominently before me by his wit and resourcefulness during the siege of the foreign legations at Peking, where he was the only Italian who did not know well how to handle the Chinese, and managed to get even with so astute a statesman as the great Li Hung Chang. He was the only Italian of opinion of Italy, which he did not take the trouble to visit when in Europe, and only a little esteem which he had happened with Li's near and dear in the San Sun Bay question, and the circumstances of the recall of the Italian Minister De Marquis arrived in China to take up the post of minister. He was received by Li Hung Chang, who with a few words of the querelle, not to say brutality, exclaimed:

"I congratulate you that your country has had enough money to send you here."

"We are richer than you suppose," replied the Marquis, "and could lend China a million."

"That is not to be believed," responded Li Hung Chang. "Why just look! You and your countrymen dress in wool, and I in silk. You wear nothing but silk. We must be richer."

"That is just where you make a mistake," retorted the Marquis. "We command the world's wool, and produce our woolen clothes after a century ago. Now we only use our skins and showings for their own coverlet, and things that we have been making for centuries at least a hundred years behind Italy."

From that time forth the Marquis and I became fast friends, and from that aspect on the part of either Li Hung Chang or any other of the Chinese dignitaries. The Marquis, who is a handsome looking man, is the son of a daughter of the illustrious Roman and Hungarian house of Pallavicini, who by reason of her beauty used to be known as the most lovely of the "Lella Pallavicini," before she became his wife. She had with her throughout her life the reputation of being the old nickname of Paris, and who used to chatter Chinese like a native. While she was looked upon, by reason of her statuesque beauty, as being a thing beauty, with a sort of awe by the natives, her little boy was simply worshipped by him, and they were always devoted to him, and the Marquis knew how to be to children. On one occasion his native attendants dressed him in a Chinese suit, and Li Hung Chang made his way to his mother's boudoir. So extraordinary was the change that she entirely failed to recognize him, and he had to wait until she had asked him what he wanted. When he answered in Chinese, with a grin, she got angry, and ordered him off, pushing him out. It was not until he laughed, and apostrophized her in Italian, that she realized that it was her son.

The Marquis Salvago-Raggi was rather badly treated by his government, financially speaking, in connection with the Italian mission at Peking. For having lost all his belongings, and those of his wife, through the plundering of the Italian mission at Peking, he was obliged to go to Europe, filed a claim upon the Chinese government for a sum of \$20,000, at which he estimated the value of his belongings, and the Chinese government found himself temporarily embarrassed, and accordingly applied to the Department of Foreign Affairs in Rome for a loan, on the basis of his claim on the Chinese treasury, which had been duly endorsed by the Italian government. The Marquis was troubled by the other demands of a kindred nature by the International Commission of Claims in China. The late Signor Prati, who was then the Minister of Foreign Affairs at the Consulate, declared that he was unable to do anything in the matter, and instead of coming to the relief of the Marquis, in the name of the government, and in recognition of his gallantry at Peking, recommended that he should apply to the financial institutions of the kingdom, or to some of the leading bankers, who would either advance money on the strength of his claim, or would let it outright for cash. The Marquis enter-

house, relinquished his claim to it a day or two later, and the Italian government, the funds, when, as luck would have it, the bank came to grief, and the Marquis had so much trouble in recovering his claim, and in getting his money, had pounced upon it as one of the assets of the bank, that the greater part of it was swallowed up by legal costs.

While Lord Kintore, the hereditary Knight Marischal of Scotland, had shown as a colonial governor, as a captain of the Yeoman of the Guard, as a lord in waiting, and as a special envoy, either in connection with the throne, or for the purpose of conveying the Order of the Garter to some foreign prince, he had been singularly unfortunate in his financial undertakings; and the painful snub to which he exposed himself in the case of the London River Gold Storage Company, to which he had been a director, and in connection with endeavoring to make use of his official honors to promote a preposterous financial enterprise, the promoter of which has been largely exposed, has merely served to recall all the foolish undertakings with which he has connected himself, and to add nothing thereby to his meagre income.

In the case of the London River Gold Storage Company, to which he had been a director, and in connection with endeavoring to make use of his official honors to promote a preposterous financial enterprise, the promoter of which has been largely exposed, has merely served to recall all the foolish undertakings with which he has connected himself, and to add nothing thereby to his meagre income.

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